



## STATE of MINNESOTA

# Proclamation

WHEREAS: African Americans and African-born communities have the most severe burden of HIV infections compared to all other racial/ethnic groups in the United States. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), 1 in 16 black men and 1 in 32 black women will be diagnosed with HIV infections at some point in their lifetime; and

WHEREAS: African Americans and African-born communities represent approximately 14 percent of the total United States population, and account for 44 percent of all new HIV infections and 44 percent of people living with HIV; and

WHEREAS: African Americans and African-born men, women and children represent over one-third, or 2,745 cases, of the 7,723 persons reported to be currently living with HIV in Minnesota - while they represent only 4 percent of the total population of the state; and

WHEREAS: National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day is a nationwide observance to call attention to the threat and devastating impact of HIV/AIDS on these communities, and to raise awareness among all African Americans and Africans to get educated, tested, treated, and involved with their local HIV/AIDS community efforts; and

WHEREAS: National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day will unite and mobilize community-based organizations and stakeholders to become one voice for change under the 2015 campaign slogan, "I Am My Brother's and Sister's Keeper: Fight HIV/AIDS!"; and

WHEREAS: Local community-based organizations are hosting community events, exhibits, testing opportunities and trainings to recognize this day and its importance to these communities and all concerned citizens. We join with these national and local groups to express our strong support for National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day, and the initiatives to prevent the spread of HIV/AIDS in these communities, and to provide treatment and care services for those living with the disease.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, MARK DAYTON, Governor of Minnesota, do hereby proclaim Saturday, February 7, 2015, as:

## BLACK HIV/AIDS AWARENESS DAY

in the State of Minnesota.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Minnesota to be affixed at the State Capitol this 1<sup>st</sup> of February.

  
GOVERNOR



SECRETARY OF STATE